

Georgia Department of Human Resources

WOMEN AND AIDS IN GEORGIA

- In 2006, women accounted for two in five Georgians newly diagnosed with AIDS. Of the 31,557 cumulative cases of AIDS diagnosed in Georgia through December 31, 2006, women comprised 6,303 of those cases.
- From 1981 through December 31, 2006, 84% of women diagnosed with AIDS in Georgia were African-American.
- During that time, 42% of the adult and adolescent females diagnosed with AIDS in Georgia became infected through sex with an infected partner.
- 21% of adult and adolescent females diagnosed with AIDS in Georgia were infected by sharing needles used to inject drugs, and one percent was infected by transfusions with contaminated blood or blood products. (The risk factors in the remaining cases are not known.)
- If an HIV-infected woman receives appropriate therapy during pregnancy and delivery, and if the infant receives it after birth, the chances of the infant becoming HIV infected are drastically reduced.
- Most women do not know if their sex partner is HIV-infected. People with HIV may not have noticeable symptoms for many years, and people with AIDS are not always visibly sick.
- STDs, including gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis, increase the risk of transmitting or acquiring HIV from an infected partner through unprotected sex.

Did you know?

- Nearly four of five (77%) women in Georgia who were diagnosed with AIDS through December 2006 were 15-44 years of age at the time of AIDS diagnosis.
- On July 1, 2007, it became law in Georgia to screen all pregnant women for HIV.
- In 2006, AIDS was the fourth leading cause of death among African-American women ages 20-44 in Georgia.
- 42% of women diagnosed with AIDS through December 2006 in Georgia were living outside the 20-county Atlanta metropolitan area at the time of AIDS diagnosis.

Where to go for information about HIV/AIDS

- Your doctor, your county health department, or the Division of Public Health at (404) 657-2700.
- Call the **Georgia AIDS Information Line at 1-800-551-2728**. They can answer your questions or refer you to community outreach programs. You won't have to give your name.
- Call **Helpline Georgia at 1-800-338-6745** for more information about drug treatment programs.